

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS****Claims pending:**

- At time of the Office Action: Claims 1-23.
- After this Response: Claims 14-22.

**Canceled claims:** 1-13 and 23, without prejudice.**Amended claims:** None.**New Claims:** None.

The listing of claims below will replace prior versions of claims in the application:

1-13. (Canceled).

14. (Original) A method comprising:

facilitating design of a virtual data center and a distributed application;  
logically placing parts of the distributed application onto the virtual data center; and  
implementing a physical data center based on the virtual data center.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein when logically placing parts of the distributed application into the virtual data center, an operator's view of the virtual data center is restricted to contain only those parts relevant to the placement of the distributed application.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which the virtual data center comprises a plurality of service definition model layers such that each layer is logically placed onto the layer beneath it.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 further comprising allocating resources of the virtual data center to support the distributed application.

18. (Original) A method comprising:  
facilitating design of a virtual data center and a distributed application;  
logically placing parts of the distributed application onto the virtual data center; and  
determining whether the placement of the parts of the distributed application is valid.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising generating a warning message if the placement of the parts of the distributed application is not valid.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising implementing a physical data center based on the virtual data center.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18 further comprising allocating resources of the virtual data center to support the distributed application.

22. (Original) A software architecture for use in designing, deploying, and managing distributed applications on a distributed computing system, the software architecture comprising:

a first software layer for tools used to convert machines into servers used in the distributed computing system;

a second software layer for network management and virtual topology generation of distributed applications;

a third software layer to maintain a physical model of the distributed computing system;

a fourth software layer to facilitate allocation of logical resources requested by the distributed application;

a fifth software layer for a service definition model (SDM) that provides a namespace and context for describing operations processes and an API for application introspection and control of application resources; and

a sixth software layer to define reusable building blocks of a distributed application, which use the SDM APIs for context, naming, and binding; and

a seventh software layer for operational management of the distributed application.

23. (Canceled).